

**DECLARATION - USA PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR STABILIZING THE SPINE THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE**; the specification of which was filed on **October 24, 2003** as Application Serial No. **10/693,815**.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims;

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56;

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor: **Gene DiPoto**

Inventor's signature Gene DiPoto

Date 1/15/04

Residence: **23 Crockett Road, Upton, MA 01568**

Citizenship: **U.S.**

Post Office Address: **23 Crockett Road, Upton, MA 01568**

Send Correspondence To:

**Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP**

**Customer No. 20,995**

ASSIGNMENT

COPY

WHEREAS, I, Gene DiPoto, a U.S. citizen, residing at 23 Crockett Road, Upton, MA 01568, have invented certain new and useful improvements in METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR STABILIZING THE SPINE THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE for which I have filed an application for Letters Patent in the United States, Application No. 10/693,815, Filing Date October 24, 2003;

AND WHEREAS, Endius, Incorporated (hereinafter "ASSIGNEE"), a Delaware Corporation, with its principal place of business at 23 West Bacon Street, Plainville MA 02762, desires to acquire the entire right, title, and interest in and to the said improvements and the said Application:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) to me in hand paid, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, the said inventor, do hereby acknowledge that I have sold, assigned, transferred and set over, and by these presents do hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over, unto the said ASSIGNEE, his successors, legal representatives and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest throughout the world in, to and under the said improvements, and the said application and all provisional applications relating thereto, and all divisions, renewals and continuations thereof, and all Letters Patent of the United States which may be granted thereon and all reissues and extensions thereof, and all rights of priority under International Conventions and applications for Letters Patent which may hereafter be filed for said improvements in any country or countries foreign to the United States, and all Letters Patent which may be granted for said improvements in any country or countries foreign to the United States and all extensions, renewals and reissues thereof; and I hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents of the United States, and any Official of any country or countries foreign to the United States, whose duty it is to issue patents on applications as aforesaid, to issue all Letters Patent for said improvements to the said ASSIGNEE, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, in accordance with the terms of this instrument.

AND I HEREBY covenant and agree that I will communicate to the said ASSIGNEE, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, any facts known to me respecting said improvements, and testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuing and reissue applications, make all rightful oaths and generally do everything possible to aid the said ASSIGNEE, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper patent protection for said improvements in all countries.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and seal this 15 day of January, 2004

Gene DiPoto  
Gene DiPoto

STATE OF Massachusetts }  
COUNTY OF Norfolk } ss. # 013-54-9147

On 1/15/04, before me, Patricia E. Hamel, personally appeared Gene DiPoto personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity(ies), and that by his signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

[SEAL]

Patricia E. Hamel  
Notary Signature